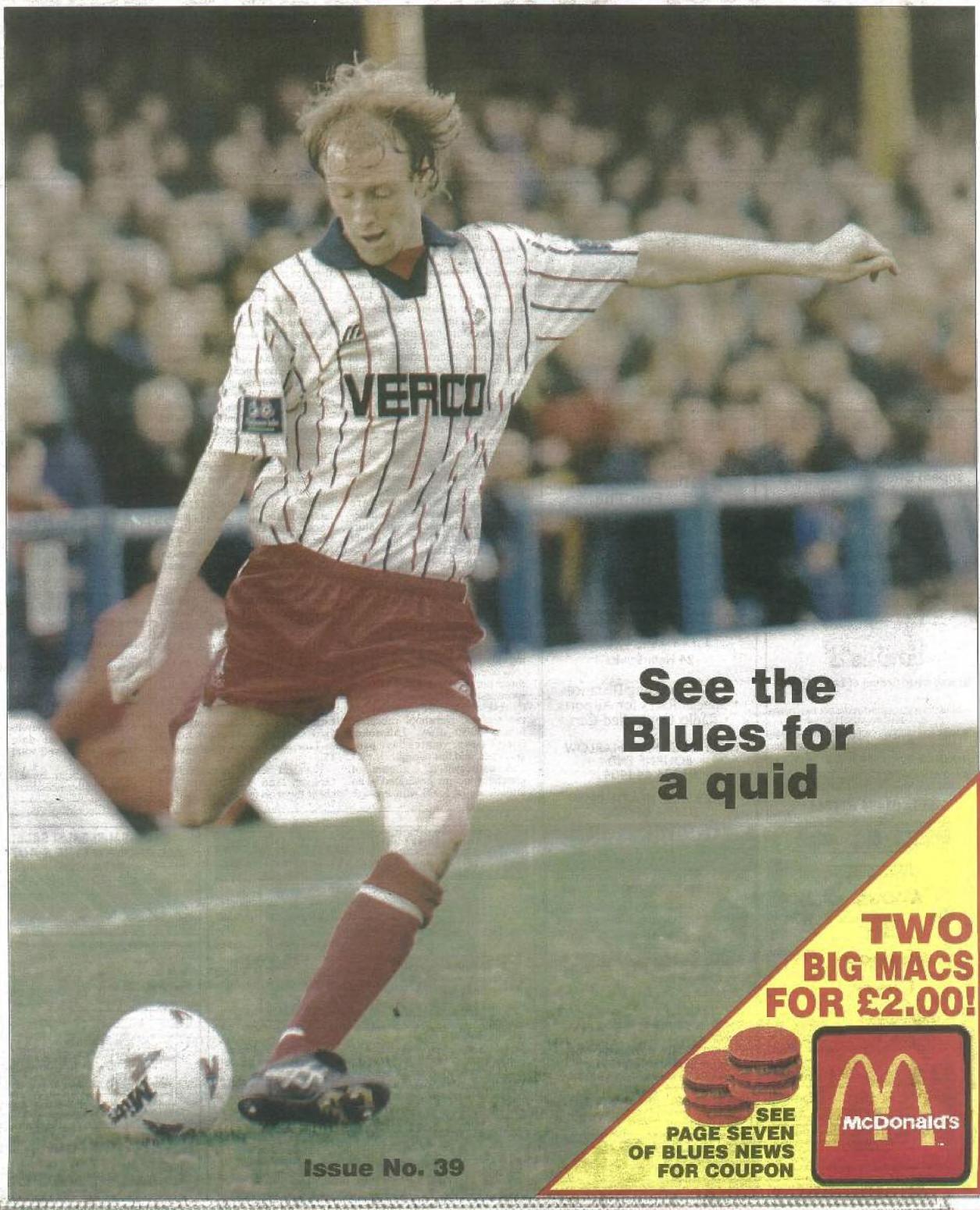




The BLUES NEWS

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



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Issue No. 39

The Cherries on the cake for Wanderers



Happy marketing man: Mark Austin was delighted by the judge's ruling

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COMMERCIAL BREAK By Mark Austin

THE reprieve of AFC Bournemouth in the High Court last week was good news for football fans and good news for Wycombe Wanderers.

The Judge's ruling has given The Cherries until the middle of May to pay the £250,000 they owe the Inland Revenue.

That means that the 24 clubs who started the 1996/97 season in the Nationwide Football League Second Division, will now at least complete the season without the dreadful mess that would have been caused if Bournemouth had been wound up.

If the court had ruled against Bournemouth all their points would have been expunged from the league table and they would not have been allowed to finish their fixtures - depriving them of the opportunity to raise any income from their remaining home games to give to their creditors.

Furthermore, all the clubs Bournemouth still have to visit can now breathe a huge sigh of relief as far as income goes.

Wycombe Wanderers are scheduled to play AFC Bournemouth at Adams Park on Saturday 19th April. Now the doubt over this fixture has been removed there will inevitably be a rush of ticket sales.

From our point of view there is considerable relief that the matchday income is now secure and more importantly we need as many home matches as possible to improve our chances of securing valuable league points.

Secondary to getting those three points is the gate receipts, sponsorship, advertising, hospitality revenue and the income from the tea bars, club shop, executive boxes, 50/50 draw, Ladbrokes commission, matchday programmes, and bar takings.

A conservative estimate of matchday income generated by an attendance of 5,000 with average

corporate bookings and matchday sales would be in the region of £40,000.

Obviously all costs have to come out of this figure, such as police, VAT, stewards, referees, WWWFC staff food and drink etc.

The match sponsor, ball sponsor, programme sponsor, executive boxholders, programme advertisers, season ticket holders, ground board advertising sponsors, Vere Suite members, Woodlands Executive Club members and Official Club Sponsors Verco Office Furniture Ltd who have already 'paid' for 23 league games will also be mighty relieved that they are not being deprived by the High Court of one of their home league games this season.

Certainly the corporate sales for this particular match are already well above average and the club is expecting a crowd in excess of 5,000 for this key match as AFC Bournemouth have a loyal away following. Interestingly enough the Bucks Free Press is very kindly sponsoring the match.

Tomorrow's match with Shrewsbury is a real six pointer, especially as they have played two more matches than us.

It is a Quid-A-Kid day, the last for the season. Children under 16 can buy a seat in the 5,000 seater ServisPak Stand for only £1, which incorporates the 1,738 seater Bucks Free Press Family Enclosure. In addition the Bucks Free Press Family Enclosure has 50 wheelchair spaces with seats directly behind for helpers.

Adult seats in this special family area cost £8; OAP seats cost £5; student seats cost £5 and usually children under 16 and wheelchairs cost £5.

The Quid-A-Kid days have proved immensely popular in the past. Children can also gain entry to the AXA Equity & Law Stand for only £1. Normal price for children in this covered terrace area is £4.50, along with OAP's and students. AXA Equity & Law Stand adult admission is £7.50.

Let's get behind manager John Gregory and the players and cheer them on to victory.

CONTENTS

Page 2
Austin is a happy chappy

Page 3
Gregory checks his figures

Page 4
It's cut price for kids

Page 5
New club shop opens

Page 6
Harkin has his say

Page 7
Alan Parry recalls his week

Page 8
Justice done for Big Tel

Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press.

Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Senda, High Wycombe.

Telephone (0494) 472100. Fax (0494) 527633.

All-ticket at Luton

WANDERERS re-arranged fixture at Luton on Tuesday, April 15 (ko 7.45pm) is all-ticket.

Tickets are available from the Commercial Offices at Adams Park, Wanderers in Town, or on the Credit Card Hotline (01494) 441118.

Tickets will be available until 12 noon on Tuesday, April 15. Tickets purchased for the original date in December are still valid for this match.

Ticket prices are £12.50 adult, £6.50 concessions.

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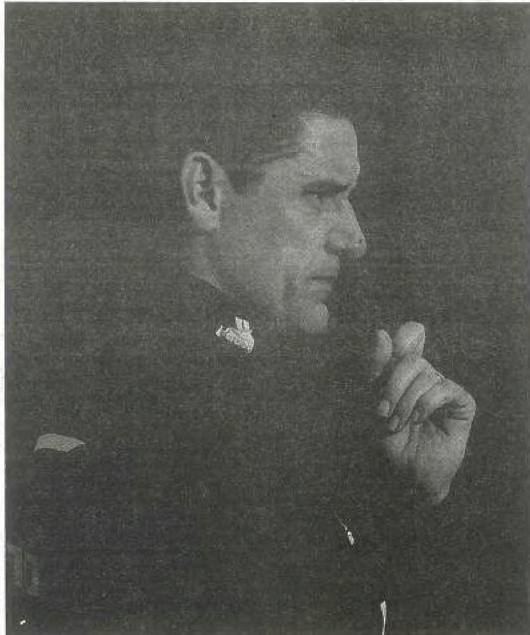
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THE BLUES NEWS

3

Teletext fingers



Watching the box: John Gregory is keeping an eye on other results

GREG'S GRAPEVINE
By John Gregory

I CANNOT dispute the fact that I have been keeping one eye on the results of our counterparts as the relegation dogfight reaches its conclusion.

I know the Teletext information numbers completely off by heart. League tables page 325, Division Two latest 306 and so on.

It is inevitable that I have to pay so much attention to the outcome of others. I would add, however, that we have our destiny in our own hands and that no blame can be attached to anyone else other than ourselves if the worst was to happen.

We still face some very tough fixtures both at home and away in our remaining matches and we cannot take for granted that our excellent home form will be enough to guarantee our survival.

We must gain some points on the road where so far this season we have had such an appalling return.

I have looked at the fixtures of all our nearest rivals and some of them have to play some difficult matches

too as the season closes.

But we still feel very confident of reaching our 53 point target and that's what I have said all along will be enough to keep us safe and in this division.

For the players, it has been an up and down season to say the least. They have had to put up with changes in the management team, changes in training methods and changes in playing styles, the introduction of new players whilst others have left and different team selections, so it's no wonder we have had inconsistent displays - but one thing remains constant, they have got the best job in the world and we all can't wait to wipe the slate clean by staying up this season and making a serious attempt at being at the other end of the table next season.

We are going to need every single Wycombe Wanderers fan to come and support the first team in the vital run-in. Your support really does make a difference and lifts the team to greater efforts. We need you to give us your vocal support to ensure that we see Division Two football at Adams Park again next season. Regards, John

Blues get that cup final feeling all over again

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been drawn at home against local rivals Aylesbury United in the semi-final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup on Thursday April 10 (ko 7.45pm).

The semi-final draw was made following Wanderers impressive 3-2 away win at Vauxhall Conference side Slough Town.

Goals from Aaron Patton, Anthony Clarke and Terry Skiverton, from the penalty spot, helped Wanderers secure their place in the last four as they attempt to win the Berks and Bucks Cup for the 24th time in their history.

If Wanderers beat Aylesbury Town they will play either Reading or Newport Pagnell in the final at Slough Town.

If after 90 minutes the semi-final score is level there will be 30 minutes extra-time. If the scores are still level after that there will be a replay at Aylesbury.

Main Stand seats have been reduced from £12 to £5 for adults and £2 for OAP's, children and students.

To encourage a large crowd to turn out the club is opening the Centre Spot public house and Vere Banqueting Suite to the general public before the match, at half-time and at full-time. The only bar not open to the general public will be the Keen Lounge.

Bars open at 6pm with a range of refreshments being available. The Adams Park car park will also be open to the general public and parking will be free.

• You can now watch all your Blues action on the television with a pint in your hand. Every Sunday the club shows full highlights of the previous day's league match on the big screen in the Centre Spot at Adams Park. Coverage starts at noon, with a Happy Hour until 3pm.

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The marked men

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 Dave Farrell - Denzil, Margaret and Andrew Ashcroft
 Dave Carroll - Mike Clark
 Gary Patterson - The Adams Family Fanzine
 Matt Crossley - Ann Cohen & Co Solicitors (01494) 677421
 Maurice Harkin - Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club
 Brian Parkin - Chairboys on the Net (100746.232@compuserve.com)
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 Anthony Clark - Gerald Edelman, Chartered Accountants
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 Jason Cousins - Liz Baines
 Steve McGavin - Sharon Healey
 Dave Jones (physio) - The Smurfettes
 John Cheesewright - Bill and Sheila, The Disraeli Arms
 Jason Kavanagh - Andrea Webster-Brown, Merry Christmas from Terry Neil Smilie - The Blues Supporters Club (01494) 563697
 John Cornforth - Coach No. 1 The Blues Supporters Club
 Michael Forsyth - Bucks Auto Components
 Michael Simpson - Alan, Richard and Richard
 Mark Stallard - Vince's Table
 At present the whole squad and team management are sponsored for the 1996/97 season.
 The sponsors will receive a players'

kit, a signed WWFC football and a 10in x 8in framed photo at a special presentation in the Vere Suite on Saturday, May 3.

Golden anniversary of Loakes Park remembered

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club is holding a special presentation on the pitch prior to their home match against AFC Bournemouth on April 19.

It is being held to commemorate the 50th anniversary to the day of Loakes

Park being presented to Wycombe Wanderers Football Club by Frank Adams, back in 1947. Some 43 years later, Loakes Park, in the town centre, was sold and helped fund the building of Wanderers' new stadium.



Mark Stallard is sponsored by Vince's Table

Crazy April price cuts

A HALF-PRICE Easter sale is being held at Wanderers' club shops, including the following offers.

	WAS	NOW
Adults and kids' Harlequin Rugby Shirt	£24.99/£17.99	£9.99
Home And Away Fridge Magnets	£9.99	£4.99
Wycombe Wanderers Kit Mug	£2.99	£1.50
Wycombe Wanderers Folding Seat	£4.99	£2.50
Cushion & Programme Holder		
Car Mini Kits	£2.99	£1.50
Wycombe Wanderers Hangers (pkt of 3)	£1.99	£99p

The sale items are available at Wanderers In Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre, The Corner Flag Club Shop at Adams Park and The Servispack Stand Club Shop also at Adams Park. The offer is for a limited period only or until stocks last.

Player profile - Maurice Harkin

FULL NAME: Maurice Harkin

DATE OF BIRTH: August 16, 1979

HEIGHT: 5ft 9in

WEIGHT: 11.5st

HOME: Ealing, West London

MARRIED: No

DAD'S JOB: Salesman

BROTHERS & SISTERS: None

NICKNAME AT CLUB: Mo

WHO DO YOU SHARE A ROOM WITH ON AWAY TRIPS? Usually Paul McCarthy.

DOES HE HAVE ANY ANNOYING HABITS? He snores all the time.

WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD? Always to be a professional footballer.

WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW? To play in the top league and to play in the World Cup for my country at full level.

WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? George Best.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE? Representing my country and becoming a professional.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE? Not doing well at school.

WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL? Being released from Watford when I was younger.

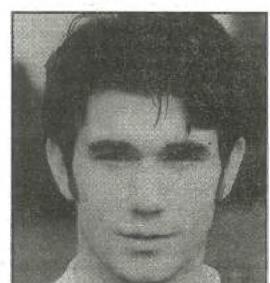
WHICH PRESENT-DAY FOOTBALLER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? Alan Shearer, he's a great professional.

WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER

THERE HAS EVER BEEN? George Best. WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? My Dad and Neil Smillie.

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED? They're all tough - nobody in particular.

WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? Neil Smillie, who has got me to where I am, and now John Gregory for giving



Maurice Harkin has been capped five times for Northern Ireland

ing me my big chance.

WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER? I have never really thought about it - probably a brickie.

AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT? Winning the District Javelin.

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A FOOTBALL PITCH? Once in a five-a-side match when I was younger, the ref was knocked unconscious from a shot by one of our players.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL? I missed more or less an open goal for my country against the Republic of Ireland. It was very embarrassing.

WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY? Chelsea.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND? Old Trafford. Molineux is the best ground I

have played at.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY? Snooker, golf, watching boxing, reading, shopping, going out with friends.

DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME? I haven't discovered it yet.

AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN? Prince Naseem and Stephen Hendry, they're simply the best in the boxing and snooker world.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION? The caps I have won, playing for Northern Ireland.

DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS? No, I would like to learn to play the guitar and piano though.

IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT? World Champion Boxer.

WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL? Bad refereeing decisions, especially when they are vital ones.

WHAT ARE YOUR PET HABITS OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? Watching cricket, bad music, black pudding and daytime TV.

FAVOURITES:

TV PROGRAMME: Only Fools and Horses.

POP STAR/GROUP: U2 and Bon Jovi.

FOOD: Steak and chips and pasta.

DRINK: Milk.

FILM: In the Name of the Father.

FILM STARS: Robert de Niro, Daniel Day Lewis and Julia Ormond.

HOLIDAY RESORT: Ireland (it's the only place I have been).

TV STARS: Arthur Daly and Alf Garnett.

COMEDIANS: Mike Reid and Billy Connolly.

CITIES: London and my home town Derry City.

SOAP: EastEnders.

SOAP CHARACTERS: EastEnders' Nigel.

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THE BLUES NEWS

7

Alan Parry gives an insight into commentating What a wild week!

MY WEEK
By director Alan Parry

ALTHOUGH I must confess that comparisons aren't immediately obvious, there is something I have in common with the local vicar!

We are both constantly asked the same question: "What exactly do you do from one weekend to the next?"

There is a common misconception that the clergy and the commentating fraternity only work one day a week and have the rest of the time off.

Now, I can't speak for the vicar, but I can assure you that it certainly isn't true of the men-behind-the-microphone.

At the risk of sounding as boring as the average sermon (sorry, vicar!) I will flick back the pages of my diary and give you an insight into a week in the life of a commentator.

SATURDAY: I'm off duty for Sky today, so I have a chance to see Wycombe take on Bristol Rovers in a real six-pointer. Thanks to a very impressive debut by Mark Stallard, the Blues are victorious and the weekend starts here.

In the evening, Gill and I attend a disco at Harrow Borough FC, which has been organised by our former goalkeeper Paul Hyde in aid of a children's charity.

A fantastic turn-out includes an impressive list of Wycombe players past and present. What a team we could have selected from Hyde, Jason Cousins, Terry Evans, Matt Crossley, Stuart Cash, Dave Carroll, Keith Ryan, Steve Guppy, Keith Scott, Simon Garner and Cyril Regis.

Former boss Martin O'Neill also turned up to support a worthy cause.

SUNDAY: Despite a hangover, it's an early start to prepare my commentary notes for the FA Cup quarter final between Portsmouth and Chelsea. I'm covering the



game for a huge overseas audience in countries like Australia, Canada, the USA and South Africa.

I commentate not from the ground, but from a tiny studio in London. Chelsea win with ease – easier than my commentary proved to be!

After watching the other quarter-final between Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon, I point the car north for the long journey to Merseyside.

Tomorrow it's Liverpool v Newcastle on Sky and I like to be in the city the night before a big game like this.

MONDAY: I spend the morning at Liverpool's training ground and Newcastle's hotel to check the latest team news. Then it's back to my hotel to finish my notes on the game.

I have a chance to jog round Haydock Park racecourse – I am definitely the slowest old carthorse seen on this track for a long time!

The match is fantastic with Liverpool throwing away a 3-0 lead only to snatch a dramatic 4-3 win with a last minute goal. An easy one to commentate on.

Back on to the motorway to Buckinghamshire.

TUESDAY: It's beautiful, sunny morning so I sit in the garden to

finish my notes on tonight's commentary – it's Wimbledon v Leicester in the semi-final of the Coca-Cola Cup.

It's another absorbing, exciting game with Leicester just holding on to reach Wembley on the away goals rule.

Martin O'Neill invites me back to the team hotel to join in the celebrations (tea only for me – honest!) and for the second night running I don't get to bed until 3am.

WEDNESDAY: There's no fool like an old fool. I should be putting my feet up and having a restful day, but I've agreed to play football. I still turn out for a team called Hamilton Academicals who play midweek games against school teams.

There's me – old enough to be father to the teachers, never mind the pupils – trying to keep pace with a mob of 16-year-olds.

We win 3-0. A triumph for experience over youth. In the evening I pick up Martin O'Neill from his home in Beaconsfield and we drive to the studios of Carlton TV. Middlesbrough are playing Stockport for the right to meet Leicester at Wembley and the pictures are being beamed live to the studios.

We both agree that Stockport are very unlucky not to force extra time at least, but it's Boro who'll be

facing Martin's men in the final on Sunday, April 6.

THURSDAY: Things calm down a little and it's a chance to catch up on my correspondence and phone-calls. I force the aching limbs into a jog along the banks of the River Thames and feel I have earned my evening pint.

FRIDAY: This is my day for doing commentary preparation. This involves phoning managers, checking records and watching videos. It's the unseen and rather tedious part of the job, but it has to be done.

SATURDAY: All good things come to an end and a very enjoyable week finishes on a sad note. I have to confess that Chesterfield is not one of my favourite venues and Wycombe's 4-2 defeat provides another unpleasant memory.

As always, Wycombe's result on Saturday sets the mood for the rest of the week and this is not a promising start. But we live to fight another day.

Well as you can see, I do manage to cram quite a bit between one Saturday and the next. I don't claim to be overworked and I wouldn't swap my job for anything else, but as the vicar will tell you, God and football commentators move in mysterious ways!

Hungry for Wanderers news

NOT being able to travel to the last two away games I have been forced to rely on Teletext for information, writes Elaine Butler of the Official Supporters Club.

Last season our local radio station elevenSEVENTY provided commentary on all the Saturday away games and some evening games.

Not only have they failed to provide this any more but the Thursday sports programme has

also gone.

Surely with Wanderers being in the second division could this problem not be resolved for next season. If it is sponsorship that is required, perhaps elevenSEVENTY Radio could approach local companies and get it sorted.

As the Blues entertain Aylesbury in the Berks and Bucks Cup on April 10 the committee has postponed its dinner until Friday, May 2.

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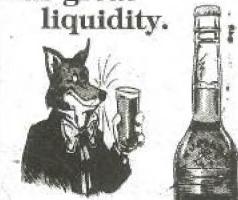
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Ups and downs of skipper

PETERBOROUGH United at home was a very pleasing performance. Justice was done in a carbon copy of the first game which was abandoned when we were leading 2-0.

Any lucky punter who forecast the result with the same two goal scorers, Miguel Desouza and Steve McGavin, would have collected £200 for every pound staked that night.

I felt we were in control for much of that game against Barry Fry's team and we deserved to come away with a clean sheet.

Millwall were there for the taking, we had 70 per cent of the possession yet gifted them two sloppy goals and ended up losing 2-1.

After controlling much of the game at the New Den we were on the wrong end of plenty of pressure against Brentford but we soaked it up very well and produced a tight defensive display to earn a point and another clean sheet to frustrate the league leaders and my former club.

It was never going to be a classic game at Griffin Park with so much at stake for both sides but our overall team performance there was good.

Our first double of the season was a very important one at home to fellow strugglers Bristol Rovers.

Parky, back between the sticks and up against his old side, played very well to again help us in not conceding a goal.

I felt we played some good football at times against Rovers and looked more confident than we have done in previous weeks and were good value for the 2-0 win. Earlier on in the season we beat Rovers 4-3 in Bristol.

The game away at Chesterfield was, in contrast, very disappointing. We are

CAPTAIN'S LOG By Terry Evans

all aware that they have had a fantastic run getting through to the semi-finals of the FA Cup and they clearly wanted to avenge the 3-0 defeat they suffered at Bournemouth three days earlier.

It is games like that one against Chesterfield that we need to win if we are to successfully get out of trouble at the foot of the second division table.

Unfortunately though, as a strong Northern side, they continued to out-battle us.

On the fitness front it is good to see that Keith Ryan is improving by the day. I am not sure when he will be back to full match fitness but it will be a welcome sight when he is finally ready for selection.

Lewis Craker is recovering from a crucial operation and starting to build muscle into his leg which until recently looked more like a broom handle.

Many congratulations to our old boss Martin O'Neill on reaching Wembley with Leicester City in the Coca-Cola Cup.

There is no way that I would bet against him picking up another trophy especially with the record he holds at the famous stadium.

The lads normally look forward to the PFA awards in London but this year we are playing Burnley on the Tuesday after.

It is important that players have plenty of rest before each game to ensure that we prepare correctly.

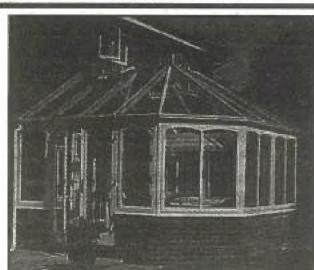
Our main focus is to secure our position in the second division, nothing must be allowed to come in the way of this.



Get stuck in: Evans in the thick of it against Millwall at the New Den



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